Rs. 42·68 lakhs in 1105. The expenditure on communications represented 72 per cent. of the gross outlay on works and repairs under all service heads. Forty-five miles of road were newly opened and 412 miles improved. The total length of communications maintained in 1106 was 5,118 miles against 3,822 miles in 1105. The Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, on which an expenditure of Rs. 13·46 lakhs has been incurred, was opened for traffic on the 12th Meenam 1106. The construction of a bridge at Neriamangalam across the Periyar river was sanctioned at an approximate cost of Rs. 3 lakhs, and like the Neendakara bridge, the undertaking will be treated as a capital work not charged to revenue. The expenditure on buildings was in accordance with the declared policy of Government, kept down. Under capital works, an expenditure of Rs. 7·70 lakhs was incurred on the Trivandrum Water Works, thus raising the total outlay on the Scheme till the end of 1106 to Rs. 25·53 lakhs; and the total outlay on the Trivandrum Electric Supply and Telephone Schemes at the end of the year stood at Rs. 6·13 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·07 lakhs was spent in 1106. Judged by the rate of progress hitherto attained in the construction of new roads, bridges, etc., it was found that the working out of the recommendations already made by the Road Boards would take some years, and it has therefore been decided not to hold any meetings of the Boards in 1107. Government have not been slow to realise the unwisdom of continuing the present policy of constructing masonry drains in various parts of the Capital without any regard to the ultimate disposal of the sewage and the necessity to devise a comprehensive drainage scheme for the whole of Trivandrum by the time the protected water supply scheme becomes an accomplished fact. It is proposed to conduct an investigation for the purpose of examining fully such a scheme; and though it may not be possible to undertake the entire scheme in the immediate future, the scheme itself will be drawn up so that any partial scheme for the town as a whole or any detailed scheme for a particular area can be designed and carried out so as to fit in with the complete drainage scheme of the town which must sooner or later be carried cut. The Ryots' Roads Rules have been suitably revised in order to make them more attractive to the people who are willing to open village roads and hand them over to the Public Works Department after completion for maintenance. The Government of India have been approached for an allotment out of the Road Fund Reserve created from the duty on petrol, with a view to the construction of bridges at Alwaye, Murinjapuzha and Poottotta.

Minor Irrigation.

19. The report of the Minor Irrigation Committee appointed in March 1930 was received in October 1931. The report has been printed and the suggestions and recommendations made therein are under the consideration of Government. In the meantime, the restoration and efficient maintenance of protective irrigation works has not been neglected.

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